

“Read for Success” during the Summer

If you can read well, you are more likely to succeed in school and do well on standardized tests. Here are some reading skills that are important for test success and ways you can help yourself at home during the summer:

Comprehension

Comprehension is more than just being able to recognize and pronounce words, it's about making sense of what words say. Standardized tests often measure comprehension by asking you to find the main idea. To find the main idea:

√ **Use the Newspaper.** Cut out a short article. Then cut off the headline. Read the article and write a headline that summarizes the main idea. Compare your headline to the newspaper's headline.

√ **Use non-fiction.** Nonfiction writing is about real people, places and things. Many standardized tests use nonfiction texts for reading comprehension. So ask your librarian to help you find interesting nonfiction books to read. Then write the main idea of a paragraph or a chapter from a non-fiction book.

Reading Rate

Reading rate is the speed at which you read. Since most standardized tests are timed, it's important for you to have an efficient reading rate. Just remember, it doesn't help you to read faster if you do not comprehend. Here's what you can do:

√ **Schedule reading time every day.** Research shows that students who read every day are more likely to read faster.

√ **Read silently.** Sometimes you read slowly because you are whispering the words aloud.

Vocabulary

The more words you know, the more likely you will do well on standardized tests. So:

√ **Learn a new word every day.** Find words in books you are reading or ask a teacher for a list. Each morning write a new word on a file card. Write the definition on the back. At dinner have a family member try using the word in a sentence. At the end of the week, review all the cards.

√ **Have a “newspaper scavenger hunt”.** Underline new words in an article. Then look them up together.